

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 remain present in this application.

The specification and claim 10 have been amended. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim 10 stands objected to for an informality. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that this objection has been addressed. Reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the claims are respectfully requested.

Figs. 7 and 8 also stand objected to for an informality. Replacement drawing sheets for Figs. 7 and 8 are attached hereto, in which the erroneous listings of reference numeral "22" have been corrected to --32--. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of any objection to the drawings are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 1-9, 11 and 12 to be allowable. In view of the foregoing amendments, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should now be in condition for allowance.

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

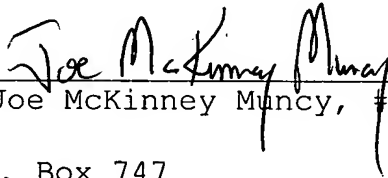
Because the prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Replacement Drawing Sheets

(Rev. 02/12/2004)

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Attached hereto are two (2) sheets of corrected formal drawings that comply with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. § 1.84. The corrected formal drawings incorporate the following drawing changes:

In Figs. 7 and 8, reference numeral "22" has been corrected to --32--, as appropriate.

It is respectfully requested that the corrected formal drawings be approved and made a part of the record of the above-identified application.